

The Philatelic Congress of India Governing Council Election Rules, 2015
[Approved by the PCI Governing Council under Article 7 of the Rules and Regulations
of the PCI in its meeting held on 3rd May 2015 at Kolkata and as amended]

Short title and commencement - 1. (a) These rules may be called the 'The Philatelic Congress of India Governing Council Election Rules, 2015'.

(b) They shall come into force immediately.

2. Interpretation - In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

- (a) 'Article' means one of the numbered paragraphs under the 'Rules and Regulations of the Philatelic Congress of India (PCI in short)'.
- (b) 'Ballot Box' includes any boxes, bags or other receptacles used for the insertion of ballot paper by the voters during an election.
- (c) 'General Body' (GB in short) means an assembly of members of the PCI specially convened for holding an election to the Governing Council (GC in short) of the PCI.
- (d) 'President' means the President of PCI.
- (e) 'Record Date' means the cut-off date on which the Membership Register will be closed and any member added after that date in any manner will not be entitled to participate in the election.
- (f) 'Secretary' means the Secretary-General and in his absence the Secretary of the PCI.
- (g) 'Treasurer' means the Treasurer or Joint-Treasurer of the PCI.

3. Updating the List of Members - The Secretary shall update and prepare a List of Life Members and Institutional Members at least 60 days before the scheduled date of election. Members may obtain a copy of the updated List of Members by applying to the Secretary and paying a fee of Rs. 400, which will be sent by e-mail or registered / speed post, as desired by the applicant.

4. Revision and Publication of Electoral Roll – (a) The Record Date for the purpose of Election Rules, 2015 will be 31st March of the financial year immediately preceding the election year. All members whose names appear in the Membership Register as on the Record date will only be entitled to nominate, vote or participate in the election, subject to their eligibility as per the Rules and Regulations of the PCI and Election Rules 2015.

(b) The Secretary/Treasurer shall send a notice to each defaulting member by speed / registered post, whether Institutional or Life, indicating the amount of default at least 45 days prior to the scheduled date of the biennial elections of the Members of GC, giving them 20 days time to clear all the arrears, failing which they would continue to be in the defaulters' list and hence disqualified as an elector.

(c) Only those Life and Institutional members who are not in arrears shall be entitled to nominate, vote or be elected. The Life Members who have paid the full membership fee will only be eligible to take part in the election and those Members choosing to pay the fees in installments will be eligible only after payment of all the installments. The Institutional Members, who have paid all dues including dues for the current financial year in which the election is to be held, will be eligible to take part in the election.

(d) The Associate and Honorary Members are not entitled to nominate, vote or be nominated.

(e) The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an updated List of Life Members and Institutional Members who have no dues and are eligible to vote. The List will freeze 20 days before the scheduled date of election and thereafter, no change or addition to the List will be permitted, even on subsequent clearance of dues / arrears. Members may obtain a copy of the updated List of Members who are eligible to vote by applying to the Secretary and paying a fee of Rs. 400, which will be sent by e-mail or registered / speed post, as desired by the applicant.

5. (a) GB Meeting for Election – The Secretary shall issues a notice convening a General Body meeting with 'Elections to the Governing Council' as one of the items or the sole item on its agenda at least 60 days prior to the scheduled date of election. The said notice will be sent by registered / speed post. The Election Process begins from the date the Secretary issues the Election Notice.

(b) Allocation of 17 Institutional Member GC Seats – The allocation of the 17 Institutional Governing Council Seats amongst the States or Group of States (Constituencies) according to the past practices and precedents will be as under :

Constituency Number	State or Group of States	Number of seats
1	Andhra Pradesh & Telangana State	1
2	Bihar & Jharkhand	1
3	National Capital Territory of Delhi	1
4	Gujarat (including Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	1
5	Karnataka	1
6	Kerala (including Laccadive, Minicoy & Aminidivi Islands)	1
7	Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh	1
8	Maharashtra & Goa [Nominee(s) of the Institutional Member(s) in Maharashtra & Goa, other than the Philatelic Society of India, Mumbai and the Empire of India Philatelic Society, Mumbai]	1
9	Odisha	1
10	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh	1
11	Rajasthan	1
12	Tamilnadu & Puducherry	1
13	Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	1
14	West Bengal (including Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	1
15	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim	1
16	A nominee of the Philatelic Society of India, Mumbai	1
17	A nominee of the Empire of India Philatelic Society, Mumbai	1
	Total Institutional GC Members	17

(c) Institutional Member Constituencies – The State or Group of States, listed above against Constituency No. 1 to 17 in the second column of the Table under clause 5(b), shall be treated as separate Institutional Member Constituencies. The elections will be held for each such State or Group of States amongst the nominations received from the Institutional Members within that particular State or Group of States (Constituency).

(d) Call for Nominations –

(1) Life Members - The Secretary shall call for nominations from the Life Members for 6 Life Member GC seats to be elected out of the Life Members on the Register of Membership of the PCI who have paid full membership fees. A Life Member may nominate up to a maximum of 6 Life Member candidates. Any Life Member who is in arrears will not be eligible to nominate or be nominated.

(2) Institutional Members - (a) The Secretary shall also call for nominations from the Institutional Members for 17 Institutional Member GC seats to be elected from the nominees of the Institutional Members who have cleared their membership dues up to the current financial year in which the election is to be held. Any Institutional Member who is in arrears will not be eligible to nominate.

(b) Each Institutional Member is entitled to submit only one candidate, as its Nominee. The nominee of an Institutional Member for the Institutional Member GC seat shall be a philatelist who is not a member of philatelic trade [Article 4(v)(b)]. The nominating Institution must certify that their nominee is not a member of philatelic trade.

(c) The Institutional Members from different constituencies can not nominate the same person. The Institutional Member Nomination Form must include the nominee's consent and a declaration that he has not given his consent for any other Institutional Member Constituency. Any false declaration by an Institutional Member or its Nominee will render the nomination invalid and cancelled.

(d) The Institutional Members within a Constituency (State or Group of States) may nominate the same person.

6. Nomination Forms - (a) The nomination for election for the Life Member GC seats shall be filed in the prescribed Nomination Form N1 and proposed by a Life Member in good standing.

(b) The nomination for election for the Institutional Members GC seats shall be filed in the prescribed Nomination Form N2, which must be signed by the President / Secretary of the nominating Institutional Member under their seal.

(c) All Nomination Forms duly signed and completed in all respects must be sent in a cover super-scribed "Nomination for Election to the Governing Council Members" by registered / speed post or submitted in person, so as to reach the Secretary at least 20 days before the scheduled date of election. Any nomination received after the due date for whatsoever reasons will not be accepted. Any nomination filed with the unauthorized person will be null and void.

7. Election Officer(s) - (a) The GC will appoint the Election Officer(s) to conduct the elections, at least 30 days before the scheduled date of election.

(b) The Secretary shall handover/send all the nominations received by him up to the due date to the Election Officer(s) immediately after the due date.

8. Nomination Validity - The Election Officer(s) will scrutinize all the nominations received up to the due date and determine the validity of nominations and eligibility of candidates. He/they will declare the list of eligible candidates with valid nominations 12 days before the scheduled date of election. The candidates will be permitted to withdraw

their names by applying to the Election Officer in writing, up to 3 days before the scheduled date of election.

9. (a) Institutional Member Delegates - An institutional member shall be represented by two nominated delegates, who shall be members of the Institution represented by them and such delegates can represent only one Institutional Member at an election. One of the nominated delegates will be empowered with the voting rights in the Delegates Appointment Form.

(b) Institutional Member Votes - An Institutional Member shall have one vote for its first 50 members and thereafter one additional vote for its every additional 100 members or part thereof, subject to a maximum of 5 votes. The multiple votes of an Institutional Member, if any, shall be exercised only enbloc in favour of a single candidate from a constituency and cannot be split. Such enbloc voting may be exercised by the Institutional Members as many times as there are GC members to be elected from separate constituencies, but it can be exercised only once in favour of a particular candidate. [Article 6(1)]

(c) Life Member Vote - A Life Member shall have one vote, but he/she may exercise his/her one vote as many times as there are GC members to be elected by the Life Members, provided that it can be exercised only once in favour of a particular candidate. [Article 6(2)]

10. Ballot Box - The Secretary shall provide two ballot boxes, one marked for voting for the 'Institutional Members' and another for 'Life Members' and place them at the disposal of the Election Officer(s).

11. (a) Polling Station - The President shall make an announcement that the General Body now turns into an electoral college to elect 17 Institutional Members and 6 Life Members to the GC. Thereafter, the election meeting room will become the polling station and the Election Officer(s) will take charge of the further proceedings.

(b) Out of Bounds for non-voters - Thereafter, only PCI Life Members and Institutional Member Delegates or persons authorized by the Election Officer(s) shall be allowed inside the polling station.

(c) Election Officer(s) to appoint Scrutinizers - The Election Officer(s) may appoint up to two Scrutinizers each for the Life Members and Institutional Members elections, for assisting in the election process, voting and vote counting.

12. Institutional Member Elections -

(a) Declaring Candidates elected uncontested - (a) If the Election Officer(s) find that only one valid nomination is received from the Institutional Members within a State or Group of States (Constituency), he/they shall declare such Institutional Candidate(s) from the particular State or Group of States (Constituency) elected uncontested.

(b) Absence of Nomination from a State or Group of States (Constituency) - In case no valid nomination is received from Institutional Members within a particular State or Group of States (Constituency), the unfilled positions will be left vacant. After the closure of election, such vacancies shall be filled in, as decided by the Governing Council.

(c) Election - In case, the number of valid nominations received from the Institutional Members within a particular State or Group of States are more than 1, elections will be held for each such State or Group of States (Constituency) amongst the nominees from the

particular State or Group of States. All eligible Institutional Members will vote for each such State or Group of States (Constituency) for which election is taking place. The Election Officer(s) shall call upon Institutional voters to come up one by one to cast their votes.

(d) Election Results - After completion of voting, the Election Officer(s) shall complete the process of counting of votes and thereupon immediately declare the Institutional Members election results.

(e) In case of any tie in the election - In case two or more candidates receive the same number of votes for the election of Institutional Member(s) for a particular State or Group of States (Constituency), a re-poll will be held immediately between the respective tied candidates.

(f) Dual Nomination for Institutional Member and Life Member Seats - In case a person is nominated for both Institutional Member seat and Life Member seat and he is declared elected for an Institutional Member seat, his nomination for the Life Member seat will be deemed withdrawn and his name if included in the Life Member Ballot Paper will be deleted.

13. Life Member Election -

(a) Declaring Candidates elected uncontested - If the Election Officer(s) find the number of valid candidates in the constituency of Life Members do not exceed 6, he/they will declare them elected uncontested. In case there are still vacant positions, the unfilled positions will be left vacant. After the closure of election, such vacancies shall be filled in, as decided by the Governing Council.

(b) Election - The election for Life Member seats will take place in the same manner immediately after the results of the Institutional Members' election are announced. [Article 4(v)(a)]

(c) Election Results - After completion of voting, the Election Officer(s) shall immediately complete the process of counting of votes and the 6 Life Member candidates securing higher number of votes than the remaining candidates will be declared elected.

(d) In case of any tie in the election - In case the number of successful candidates exceeds 6, due to two or more candidates receiving the same number of votes, a re-poll will be held immediately amongst the tied candidates, thereby limiting the election of Life Members to 6.

14. Closure of Election process - The Election Officer(s) shall hand over all the relevant papers after signing and duly accounting for the ballot papers, valid, invalid, with reasons along with the winners' list to the Secretary for safe-keeping of papers. The Election Officer(s) shall then hand over the premises to the President of the GB for continuance of other activities.

15. Disputes Redressal - In case of any dispute arising out of the election process, the decision of the Election Officer(s) will be final and binding on all participants.

Approved on 3rd May 2015 and as amended.